

Notice of Allowability

Application No. 09/916,385	Applicant(s) SCHWONKE ET AL.	
Examiner Sheeba Ahmed	Art Unit 1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. This communication is responsive to 7/31/07.
- 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 20,22-29,31,41,43-54,56-58 and 74-79.
- 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- 4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 - 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 20, 22-29, 31, 41, 43-54, 56-58, and 74-79 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 76 recites a linoleum sheet containing over the entire thickness thereof flakes comprising an organic polymeric material, wherein each of the flakes has a thickness in the range of 1.0 to 400 microns and wherein the linoleum sheet includes from about 1% to about 15% by weight of the flakes.

Independent claim 77 recites a linoleum sheet containing over the entire thickness thereof flakes comprising an organic polymeric material, the flakes having a thickness in the range of 1.0 to 100 microns, wherein the organic polymeric material comprises the reaction product of: a) a mixture of a partial ester of maleic acid anhydride and dipropylene glycol with citric acid; with b) at least one epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester or a mixture of the epoxidation products.

The closest prior art, Dobry and Harris, fail to disclose or render obvious a linoleum sheet containing over the entire thickness thereof flakes comprising an organic polymeric material wherein the linoleum sheet includes from about 1% to about 15% by weight of the flakes or wherein the organic polymeric material comprises the reaction product of: a) a mixture of a partial ester of maleic acid anhydride and dipropylene glycol with citric acid; with b) at least one epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester or a mixture of the epoxidation products.


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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheeba Ahmed whose telephone number is (571)272-1504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 2pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on (571)272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.


Sheeba Ahmed
Art Unit 1773
August 3, 2007